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Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 SY-05 USSS-00 SS-15 PM-05
NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01
USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /059 W
----------030544 262357Z /75/41
P R 261402Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5371
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 6689

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, TC, SY
SUBJ: ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION SYRIAN FONMIN KHADDAM

REF: STATE 255316 (NOTAL)

1. WHILE DELIVERING MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY (REFTEL) TO FONMIN KHADDAM'S OFFICE DIRECTOR, I HEARD FOLLOWING ABOUT OCTOBER 25 ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON FONMIN IN ABU DHABI.

2. KHADDAM'S PRIVATE SECRETARY, WHO WAS WITH FONMIN DURING ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION, SAID THAT PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION OF ASSASSIN INDICATED HE WAS YOUNG, ABOUT 22 YEARS OLD, AFFILIATED TO ONE OF THE REJECTIONIST GROUPS HEADQUARTERED IN BHAGHDAD. ASKED IF INDIVIDUAL CAME FROM ABU NIDAL GROUP, PRIVATE SECRETARY SAID HE UNABLE CONFIRM BUT THIS WAS MOST LIKELY HYPOTHESIS AT MOMENT.
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EM PRIVATE SECRETARY COMMENTED THAT ABU DHABI AUTHORITIES SIMPLY UNPREPARED TO DEAL WITH TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. WHILE SECURITY WAS ARRANGED AT CERTAIN FIXED POINTS SUCH AS HOTEL WHERE FONMIN STAYED AND AT MEETING SITE, NONE EXISTED BETWEEN THESE POINTS. FURTHEMORE, THE APPROXIMATE TIME HE WOULD ARRIVE AT AIRPORT WAS OPEN SECRET, WITNESS THE PRESENCE OF

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THE PRESS CORPS AND THERE HAD BEEN NO ATTEMPT TO SCREEN BY-
STANDERS AT THE AIRPORT. WEAPON USED, HE DESCRIBED AS VERY
COMPACT, EASILY CONCELED SUB-MACHINE GUN. APPROXIMTELY
THIRTY ROUNDS WERE FIRED. HAD ASSASSIN BEEN ON SAME LEVEL
INSTEAD OF ON BALCONY ABOVE KHADDAM'S GROUP AS IT MOVED
INSIDE TERMINAL, PRIVATE SECRETARY PREDICTED THEY COULD ALL
HAVE BEEN WIPED OUT.

4. DEPFONMIN AL-KHANI COMMENTED THERE SEEMED TO BE PATTERN
IN THAT ANYTIME THERE WAS INDICATION OF EVEN SLIGHT RAPPROACHE-
MENT BETWEEN BAGHDAD AND DAMASCUS, EVENTS SUCH AS YESTERDAY'S
ASSASSINATION OCCUR. (HE WAS REFERRING TO LAST WEEK'S
ANNOUNCMENT THAT BAGHDAD WOULD SHORTLY SEND AMBASSADOR
TO DAMASCUS, THE FIRST IN NEARLY THREE YEARS.) AL-KHANI
OBSERVED THAT WHETHER OR NOT BAGHDAD AUTHORITIES HAD
ACTUALLY COMMISSIONED THE ASSASSIN, FACT REMAINED BAGHDAD
WAS CONTINUING TO PROVIDE EVERY SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT
TO ABU NIDAL AND REJECTIONIST ELEMENTS.

5. ATTACKS IN TODAY'S SYRIAN PRESS ON IRAQI REGIME WERE
PLENTIFUL AND SHARP. (SEPTEL)
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ASSASSINATION, REPORTS, PLOTS, MINISTERS (DIPLOMATS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DAMASC06689
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770400-0691, D770393-0468
Format: TEL
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771022/aaaaasjl.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0bf8a727-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 255316
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 794611
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION SYRIAN FONMIN KHADDAM
TAGS: PINS, TC, SY, (KHADDAM, ABD AL-HALIM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0bf8a727-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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